



Christmas Eve ~ December 24, 2022
4 PM Worship

Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA, 505 Main Avenue North
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

PRELUDE
CALL TO WORSHIP

“One Small Child”
“Let There Be Light”
Violin: Andrew Helgeland

Women’s Ensemble
Senior Choir

INVOCATION

“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,

Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain.*

3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light & life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth. *Refrain.*

PRAYER

All: Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Son so longed for, o’er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord to see, the day of earth’s redemption, that sets your people free. Amen.

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain.*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain.*

“I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE”

1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus’ birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.

2 The little child in Bethlehem,
he was a king indeed!

For he came down from heav’n above
to help a world in need.

3 I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev’ry child
the palace of the king.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7

“ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and
Worship, Worship Christ the new-born king.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain.*

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
You have seen his natal star. *Refrain.*

FIRST GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-14

“INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY”

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

SECOND GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:15-20

SERMON “THE COMING OF GOD’S GRACE” - PASTOR MARK HELGELAND

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to all the earth!

3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

THE PRAYERS

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

2. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

THE LORD’S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Night of Silence”
Violin: Andrew Helgeland

JOEL & LAURA RUDE

(as lights are dimmed, please turn on your candles)

“SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!”

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYER

All: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

(Please turn off candles)

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

Offering plates are available at the back of the church as you exit.

OUR THANKS to those assisting in Christmas worship today at 4 PM:

Ushers: Josh & Tina Haugen, David & Karen Kirkeby, Charlie & Tami Lundgren

Piano: Laura Rude

Violin: Andrew Helgeland

Acolytes:

Reader: Shawna Spears

Special Music: Senior Choir: Laura Rude-director; Women's Ensemble, Joel & Laura Rude

CHRISTMAS EVE BROADCASTS are sponsored in memory of Ione Sparby by Wally Sparby.



As the Christ child was born into this world, may the peace and joy of Christmas be born in you this holy season!

POINSETTIAS are shared by the following:



- ◆ In memory of Laurel & Ardith Schuster, Delwin W. & Joan Schob *by the Schob family*
- ◆ In memory of our sons, Rodney & Ronald Leskiw *by Wanda & Gerald Schuster*
- ◆ In memory of Loved Ones *by Russell & Eileen Rhen*
- ◆ In memory of our beloved Laney Theodora Ricki Holtan *from Mommy, Daddy, Declan, Estee, & Cal-la*
- ◆ In memory of Cody Lundgren *by Charles, Tami, Alex & Parker Lundgren and David & Karen Kirkeby*
- ◆ In memory of Vernon & Lillian Kees, Harold Kees & Jeremy Kees, & Jonelle DeFrang *by Vivian Knutson & family*
- ◆ In memory of Sheldon Nomeland and Bernard Picolet *from Wayne, Jeri, Abbie and Alex Nomeland*
- ◆ In memory of Harold & Mary Dupree *by Ron & Ruth Ostby*
- ◆ In memory of Rick Ostby *by Ron & Ruth Ostby and Mike, Lisa, Ella & Lucy Heuer*
- ◆ In memory of Richard Melby, Lloyd & Ellen Spray, Vivian Contos, & Gerald Olson *by Judy Melby & families*
- ◆ In memory of Karen Johnson *by Leon Johnson & family*
- ◆ In memory of Lorae Johnson *by Ray & Kathy Wagner & family*
- ◆ In memory of Joe & Ginny Armstrong *by Chris, Nicky, Caitlynn, Brianne, Bob, Lynelle, Erica, Erin, Jon & Raelynn*
- ◆ In memory of Clair & Suzy Ellison *by Chris, Nicky, Caitlynn & Brianne Ellison*
- ◆ In memory of Brady Lee *by Thane & Kristi Mundell, Maci Lee & girls*
- ◆ In loving memory of our Parents and Sisters *by Richard & Sharon Jorde*
- ◆ In memory of Loved ones *by the Joppru Family*
- ◆ In memory of Loved ones *by the Bruggeman Family*
- ◆ In memory of Rudy Rude *by Helen Rude & family*
- ◆ In memory of Don Narverud & Susan Narverud *by Carol Narverud & family*
- ◆ In memory of Janice Henrickson *by Geno Henrickson & family*
- ◆ In memory of Nicole Knutson, Elda & Clinton Knutson, Art & Lilah Christianson *by Rodney & Sandy Knutson*
- ◆ In memory of Bertil & Clara Bakke, Dennis Bakke & Jeanette Weber and in honor of Vernice Nelson *by Betty Amiot*
- ◆ In memory of Clarence Amiot *by Betty Amiot, Shari & Mark, Doug & Dana, Bryan & Melinda and families*
- ◆ In memory of Ray Nelson *by Jeannie Nelson, Marijo & Jeff Langlie, Wendy Nelson, and Nancy & Steve Stadler*
- ◆ In memory of Bruce Halbert *by Aaron & Alissa Halvorson & family*
- ◆ In memory of our loved ones and in honor of our family and friends *by the Hanson's Pat, Amber, Tristan, & Alex*
- ◆ In memory of Grandma & Grandpa Hed, and Grandpa Jim *by Devin, Shawna, Trista, Grant & Dana Spears*
- ◆ In memory of family & friends *by Dick & Jan Haugen*
- ◆ In memory of Laney Holtan *by Grandpa & Grandma*

Thank you for sharing poinsettias. You may take yours home after Christmas services.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 24, 2022

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE

Telling the New, Old Story

The author of Luke is a self-proclaimed historian. The name-dropping in this Christmas Eve gospel is Luke's effort to ground Jesus' birth in history. But make no mistake: Luke does not believe that this world-changing story should remain in history.

“In those days” (Luke 2:1), as our gospel begins, a child was born who would be called “Wonderful Counselor” and “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Word of this holy birth immediately spread to the next willing hearers who could receive the good news: shepherds in that region, tending their flocks. And the story did not stop there! By the leading of a star, the news of that holy night would spread, would draw in others to venture out as messengers, witnesses, and storytellers.

Christ's birth may have happened as part of a historic timeline, but the incarnation is hardly time-bound. Christ's birth was good news “in those days” and remains good news in these days as well. The song of the angels, by their own declaration, is a song for all people, a promise for now and for all generations. It is not limited to any one time, place, nation, race, gender, class, age, or life circumstance.

Every generation longs for lasting peace. Every era in history seeks the promise of a future filled with hope and purpose. And so, to every generation, Luke offers his story—not as a history lesson but as a timeless tale of wonder, grace, and hope.

It is a story of a baby born in a most unlikely setting, and a story of some drowsy night-shift workers. It is a story of a night sky ablaze and of hearts deeply moved by the transcendent music of the spheres. It is a story we love to tell. And it is a story our world needs. Because it reminds us, each time we hear it, that God *is* establishing endless peace, justice, and righteousness, “from this time onward and forevermore” (Isa. 9:7).

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